

Harry Shorten's

mac  
#1 50¢

# THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW

SO YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO  
PUT US IN A MAGAZINE  
SHORTEN, LUCKY YOU DID!  
FRANKLY, WE WERE  
THINKING OF SEIZING THE  
CARTOON AND DOING IT  
OURSELVES!

THE ALL-TIME  
BEST COLLECTION  
OF THE ALL-  
TIME BEST  
SYNDICATED  
CARTOON STRIP



DEPARTMENT OF SINKING HEARTS -



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A BELMONT MAGAZINE

# THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW

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When Harry Shorten goes to work nothing and nobody escapes his attention. You may think that you're so special that you've never been featured in "Law." But you have: you're in there somewhere.

People recognize themselves in "There Oughta Be a Law." They don't mind having their shortcomings and eccentricities pointed out because of Shorten's unique handling of the material. Harry Shorten has no use for the club or the broadsword: his favorite weapon is the needle. The creator of "Law" likes the needle because it's just enough to make people sit up and take notice without inflicting any lasting damage to the ego.

First, there is a sharp prodding sensation, followed an instant later by the

shock of recognition, and then we start to laugh.

"Law's" cartoon characters continue to live in the public imagination because they are not merely comic inventions but real-life people in comic strip clothes. They are so real that they almost walk off the page. They continue to have universal appeal because human nature remains basically the same. The ancient Greeks knew Harry Shorten's characters, and without a doubt they will still be around long after man has colonized Mars.

Yes, "There Oughta Be A Law." Come to think of it, there is at least one such law and Harry Shorten has written it. It's The First Law of Laughter.

"There Oughta Be A Law" has been rolling them in the aisles for a quarter of a century. Other comic strips come and go, but "Law" goes on forever. The very phrase "There Oughta Be A Law" has become part of the American language. When the title of a cartoon does that, then the cartoonist knows he's got it made—permanently.

"There Oughta Be A Law" has universal appeal because...well...it's universal. It's that simple and that complicated. "Law" has something for everyone. If you don't find yourself somewhere in one of Harry Shorten's cartoons, chances are that you're a hermit or a misanthrope or otherwise isolated from the human race. Because that's what "Law" is—it's human, first, last and always.

"There Oughta Be A Law" comments on the human condition. Witty, incisive, direct, "Law" is never really unkind about the foibles of its characters. Even that famous old windbag "The Boss" comes off as a more or less lovable creation. He's pompous and pinch-penny, but you can't hate him. You can't hate him because, in the end, he's just as human as the rest of us.



# Just Folks

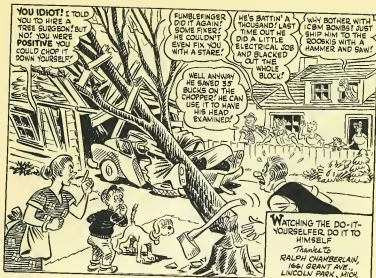












**B**LONTOP CAN SPEND A WHOLE WEEK-END UNTANGLING HIS FISHING LINE AND NEVER STOPS WHISTLING —



ABOUT 900 FEET AND 12,000 KNOTS

Thanks to  
MRS. F. LAWRENCE,  
# 6, ST. JAMES PL.,  
CINCINNATI 6, OH.

**B**UT TWO MINUTES WITH A KNOT IN YOUR SIX-INCH GOLD CHAIN AND HE'S READY FOR A DIVORCE

I CAN'T GET THAT #547 KNOT OUT! DO IT YOURSELF! THAT THING'S DRIVING ME NUTS!



**T**HE ONE NIGHT YOU ASK 'EM TO GET HOME A LITTLE EARLIER ...

TONIGHT'S OUR ONCE-A-MONTH LADIES MEETING, FRUSTER! I HAVE TO LEAVE BY SIX AT THE LATEST!

OKAY, DEAR! I'LL HURRY HOME!

SMACK!

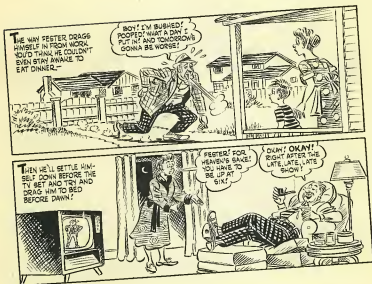


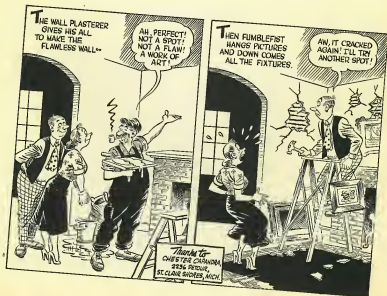
**HUSBANDS ARE MADDENING DEPT.**

**I**S THE ONE NIGHT THEY'LL GET HOME LATER!



Thanks to  
BEATRICE WILLEY,  
PT. MARION, PA.





**THE WAY ENTRAIL MOANS IT TO HIS MISSUS  
HE'S LIVING ON BORROWED TIME ...**

**EAT OUT?**

"YOU KNOW I GOT A STOMACH CONDITION! AND THIS WEATHER IS MURDER ON MY SINUSES! I BEEN DIZZY ALL DAY! MAYBE IT'S MY MALARIA COMING BACK!"



Thanks to  
MILDRED BORTH,  
52 TRAM COURT,  
TONAWANDA, N.Y.

**BUT HE'S NOW TRYING TO GET INSURANCE  
AND OBOY! HE SOUNDS LIKE THE STRONG  
MAN IN A CIRCUS**

"EVER BEEN SERIOUSLY SICK? ANY OPERATIONS? EVER HAD TYPHOID? DIPHTHERIA? HEEBIE JEEBIES?"

"NOPE, NEVER SICK! I'M DISGUSTINGLY HEALTHY, DOC! NOT AN ACHIE NOR A PAIN!"



**YOU'VE ALL SEEN HIS NAME IN  
THE PAPERS. HE'S THE GUY  
WHO'S BEEN SHOOTING  
MISSILES INTO OUTER  
SPACE ...**

**DAILY DISAPPOINTMENT**

**ORVILLE STRATTO  
HEAD OF MISSILE  
PROGRAM PUTS  
ANOTHER SATELLITE  
INTO ORBIT**

"NEXT ATTEMPT WILL  
BE THE MOON! SAYS  
MR. STRATTO."



ORVILLE STRATTO



**BUT HE HASN'T YET BEEN  
SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING  
HIS KIDS KITE PAST THE  
ROOF!**

"WEE, POP! YOU GOT  
IT CAUGHT IN A BRANCH  
AGAIN!"



Thanks to -  
PHYLLIS JOHNSON,  
MILWAUKEE, WISC.



GHERKIN SAW THE PRESENT HE WANTED FOR GHERKIN JR. AND THOUGHT HIS TROUBLES WERE OVER

JUST WHAT  
I'M LOOKING  
FOR! IT'S  
MY WID'S  
BIRTHDAY!

I'LL HAVE A FRESH ONE SENT TO YOU IN A CRATE!

Thanks to  
TOMMY LORY,  
6319 JOHN A.  
CHEVERLY, MD.

... **B**UT HE FOUND OUT THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING WHEN HE TRIED TO PUT IT TOGETHER.

TWO DAYS  
YOU'VE BEEN  
AT THAT  
THING!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE SIMPLE!

**SHADDUP  
ALREADY!**

**SINGLE**

**O**LIVERBRANCH IS A DIPLOMAT'S DIPLOMAT. HE SETTLES ARGUMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD LIKE NOTHING--

(1) 2000  
 2000-01  
 2000-01  
 2000-01

GENTLEMEN, I'VE FINALLY  
PERSUADED THE SULTAN OF  
BALAMI AND THE RASHA  
OF RAYSHA TO SIGN A  
PEACE TREATY!

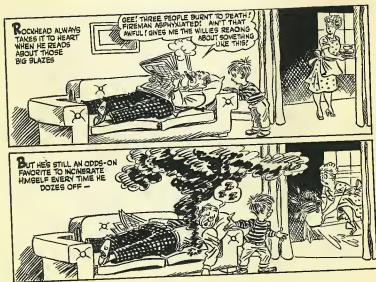
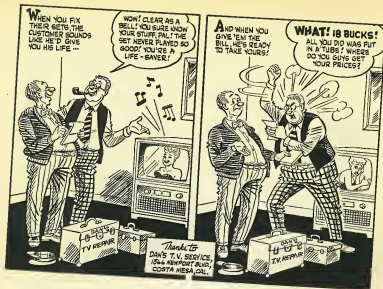
செய்து  
பெற்று  
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**B**UT HE HADN'T YET BEEN ABLE TO SETTLE THE SHOOTING WAR THAT'S ALWAYS GOING ON BETWEEN HIS KIDS —

DO SOMETHING!  
ANYTHING! THEY'RE  
DRIVING ME OUT OF  
MY MIND!

159

LEGGIO  
MY TOY!





# Golf Nuts And Fishy Stories

**F**UNNY HOW YOU SEEM TO SPOT YOUR GOLF PARTNER'S LOST BALL IN THE TOUGHEST PLACES.



**B**UT WHEN **you** LOSE ONE, THEY'LL FIND PLENTY OF OTHERS - BUT NOT YOURS!



*Thanks To  
HARRY WANDRUS,  
2454 N. 29<sup>th</sup> ST.,  
MILWAUKEE, WIS.*

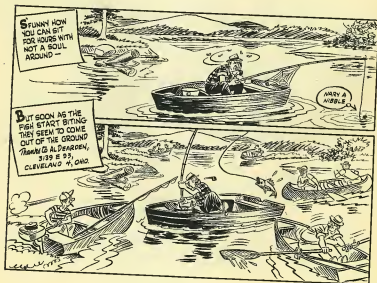




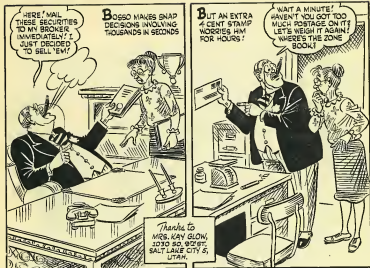
SO NOW WE SEE HIM RELAXING WITH GOLF .....

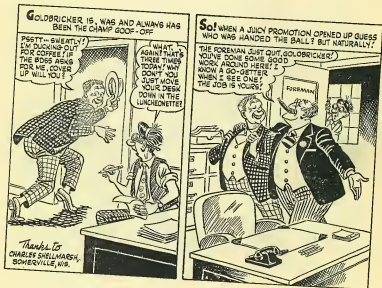
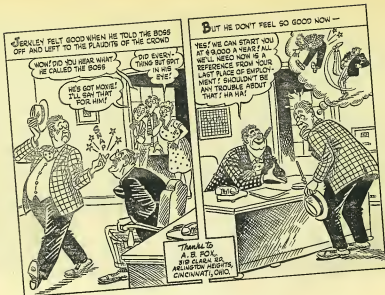


Thanks to LEON ABRAVANEL,  
23 MESA RD., PLAINVIEW, L.I., N.Y.



# The Boss













**JUNIOR DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE BUT PAPA WAS ADAMANT**

AW, I'D RATHER WORK IN THE PLANT WITH YOU, POP!

NO! I WANT YOU TO LEARN! TO BE SMART! SOME DAY YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER MY BUSINESS! YOU CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT A COLLEGE EDUCATION!

**WELL, JUNIORS OUT OF COLLEGE! AND JUST LET HIM TRY AND USE HIS EDUCATION ON POP! YEAH! JUST LET HIM TRY!**

BUT, POP! I ONLY SAID I THINK—

WELL DON'T THINK! I DON'T NEED ANY COLLEGE KIDS TELLING ME HOW TO RUN MY BUSINESS! I LEARNED THE BEST WAY! THE COLLEGE OF EXPERIENCE!

Thanks to  
MRS. JUDY GLASS,  
1332 BROOKTON RD.  
PHILADELPHIA 31, PA.

**ANGLEWORM WAS THE GENSITIVE TYPE! HE RESENTED THE BOSS GIVING HIM A HARD TIME**

AW, SNAKE DOWN, ANGIE! ALL HE DID WAS ASK YOU TO STOP WHISTLING!

ASK MY FOOT! HE TOLD ME! ALWAYS PUSHING THE LITTLE GUY AROUND! THE TYRANT! THINKS WE'RE DIRTONE OF THESE DAYS—

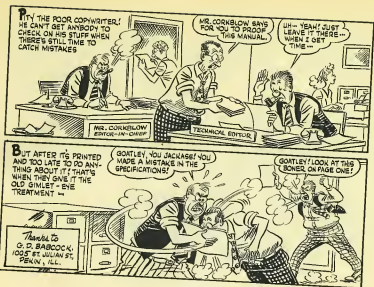
**BUT SOMEHOW HE GOT TO BE AN ORDER-GIVER HIMSELF AND WELL— SIMON LEGREE, MOVE OVER**

YOU, CRUELY! YOU'RE FIRED!

GASSPANE! OUT OF THAT WASHROOM!

QUIT STALLING YOU #6% ★!

Thanks to  
ED. SILVEY,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.



**SALESMAN SATCHELPANTS BROKE A RECORD (AND HIS BACK) TO COP FIRST PRIZE IN THE COMPANY SALES CONTEST**

—AND THE WINNER OF A TWO-WEEK PAID VACATION! CONGRATULATIONS, SATCHELPANTS! YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF THIS PERIOD OF REST AND RELAXATION!

ANNUAL SALES CONTEST	
1. SATCHELPANTS	\$14,365
2. MY OCTANE	8,977
3. PROOTBLISTER	5,391
4. GIMLETBLISTER	4,892
5. GALAVANT	3,119
6. TREADPHILL	2,046
7. SHNOOKLE	1,587

Thank to  
HENRY MILLER,  
46 LILAC LANE,  
ATHERTON, CALIF.

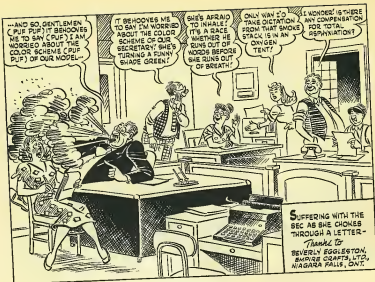
**HE'S BACK OVER A MONTH AND HE HASN'T STOPPED RELAXING YET... (P.S. HIS JULY SALES ARE EVEN WORGE)**

AREN'T YOU GOING OUT ON CALLS TODAY, SATCHELPANTS?

WAH! MY ULSTERS ARE ACTING UP! AND ANYWAY MOST OF MY CUSTOMERS ARE ON VACATION!

**MONTHLY SALES CHART  
JUNE**

MY OCTANE	\$ 5,542
GALAVANT	4,328
TREADPHILL	5,143
SHNOOKLE	1,185
PROOTBLISTER	2,696
GIMLETBLISTER	1,118
SATCHELPANTS	2



# Have Wife, Will Travel

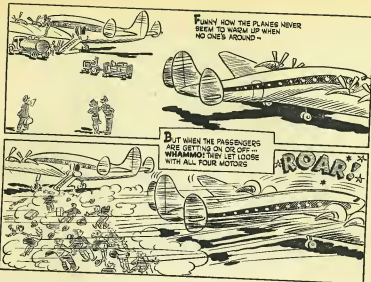
WHEN THE SASHWANTES PLANNED THEIR TRIP THEY DID THINGS UP IN LAVENDER... THEY EVEN TOOK SPANISH LESSONS WITH A PRIVATE TUTOR.

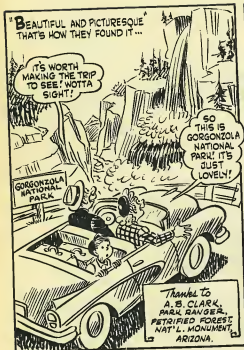


AND NOW THAT THEY ARE ON THAT TRIP, WE GIVE YOU THE SASHWANTES USING SOME OF THAT HIGH-PRICED SPANISH ON THE NATIVES...



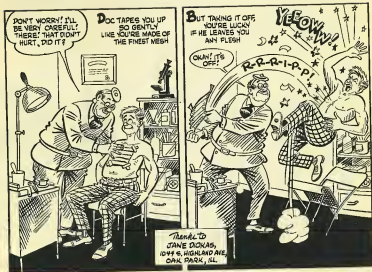








# This Won't Hurt a Bit







5 O'CLOCK! NO! THE DOCTOR HAS AN APPOINTMENT AT 5! AND ANOTHER AT 5:15! HMM--FIRST OPENING IS AT 6:45! NO! HE CAN'T TAKE YOU AT ANY OTHER TIME!

AND SO WHAT! NO MATTER WHEN YOU GET THERE THE WAITING ROOM LOOKS LIKE THE GRANDSTAND AT THE ARMY-NAVY GAME!

Thanks to  
ALAN WEINRAUB,  
38-34 NORTHERN DR.,  
FAIRLAWN, N.J.



**YOU CAN TELL 'EM! YOU CAN WRITE 'EM  
OR TATTOO IT ON THEIR NOSE**

HMM -- A LOT OF  
ORTHODONTURE WORK  
HERE! AT LEAST  
**TWO YEARS**, MAYBE  
THREE BEFORE THE  
JOB'S FINISHED! IS  
THAT ALL RIGHT?

TWO OR THREE YEARS? FINE!  
DOCTOR! I KNOW THESE THINGS  
CAN'T BE HURDED!  
WE JUST HAVE  
TO HAVE  
PATIENCE!  
HA HA!



Thanks to  
DR. ALLAN N. CARR  
3809 YOUNG DR.,  
CHICAGO, ILL.

**THREE MONTHS AFTER WHAT'S THE BEEF?  
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE?**

WHY AREN'T BRATINELLA'S  
TEETH STRAIGHT YET?  
ARE YOU TRYING TO  
STRETCH OUT THE  
JOB, DOCTOR? I DON'T  
SEE ANYTHING  
HAPPENING!



**OLD DOC YANKUM**  
IS A MAN OF FEW  
WORDS --  
CONVERSATIONALLY,  
HE SPINX --

WHO'S THAT  
GUY SITTING  
OVER THERE?  
BY HIMSELF?  
I HAVEN'T  
HEARD A PEEP  
OUT OF HIM  
ALL NIGHT!

SOMEBODY  
HOLD A  
MIRROR UP  
TO HIS LIPS  
AND SEE IF  
HE'S STILL  
BREATHING!

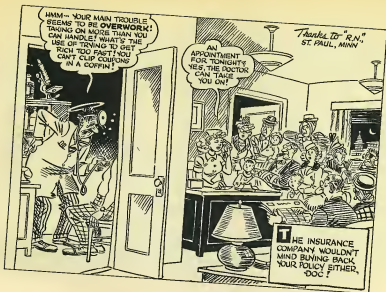


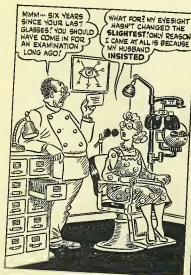
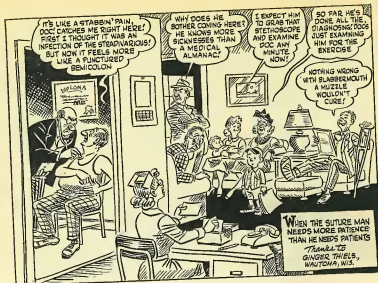
**BUT WHEN HE'S**  
GOT A PATIENT IN  
HIS CHAIR WITH A  
MOUTH FULL OF  
INSTRUMENTS --  
WOW! DOES HE  
OPEN UP!

HOW'S A WIFE AND KID,  
CARBUNCLE? WHO YOU  
THINK IS GOING TO CUP  
THE PENNANT THIS  
YEAR? SAY, EVER HEAR  
THE ONE ABOUT THE  
COCKROACH IN THE  
RAISIN CAKE  
FACTORY?



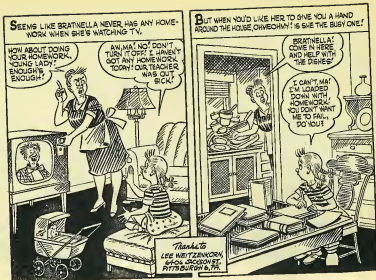
Thanks to  
N. SISKIND,  
551 AINWATER ST.,  
LINDEN, N.J.



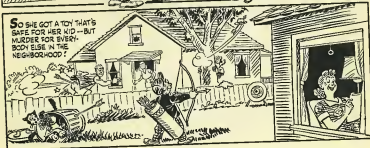
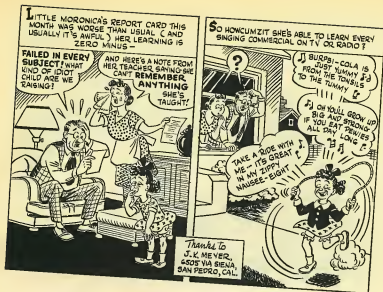


# Patter of Little Feet

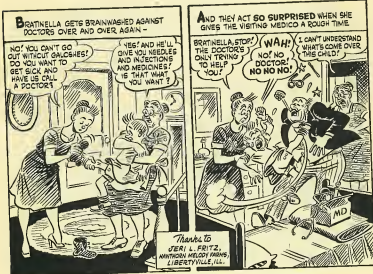


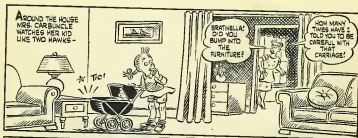
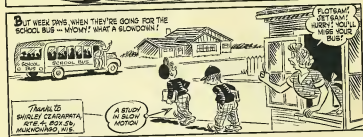


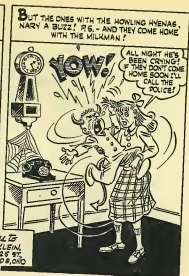






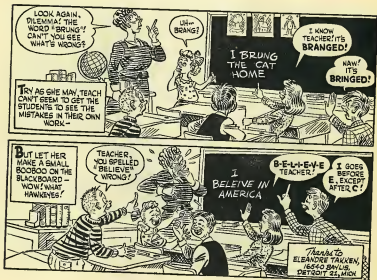
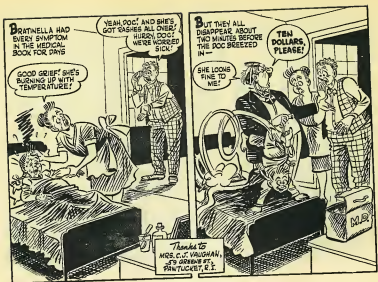






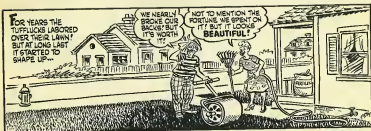




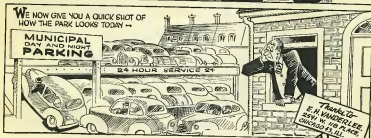


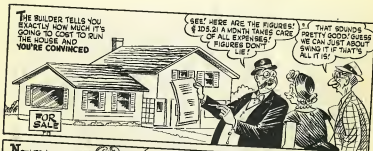
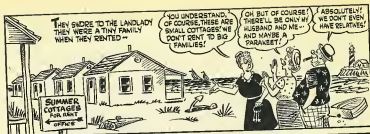


# Man Around The House

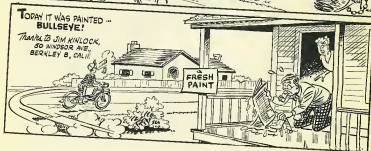
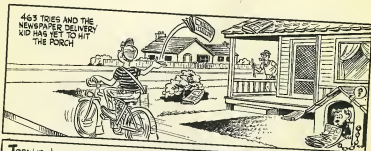




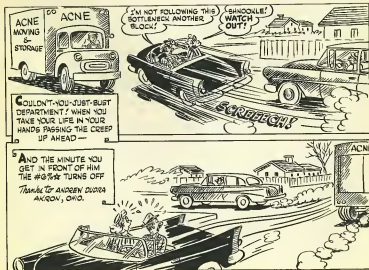


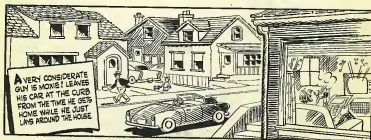
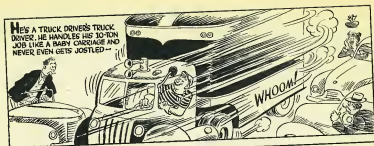




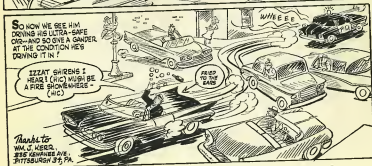
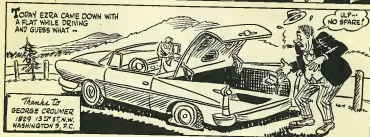
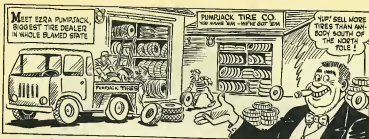


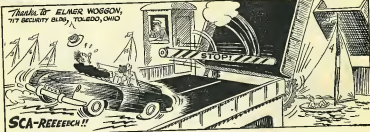
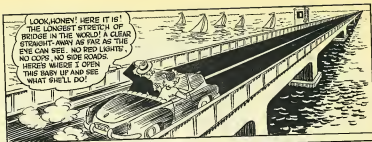
# Get a Horse!



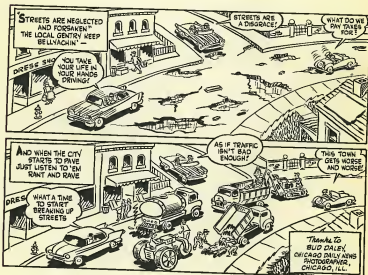
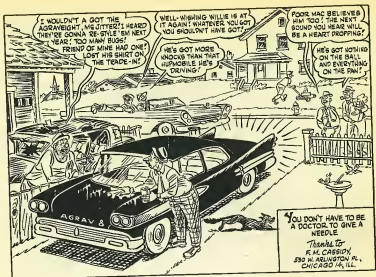


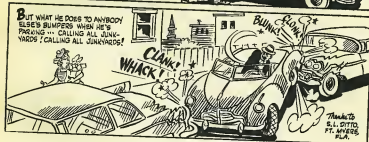


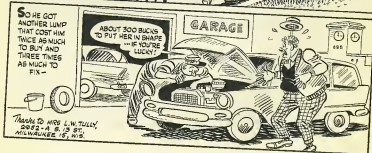




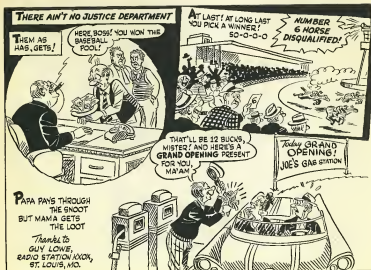


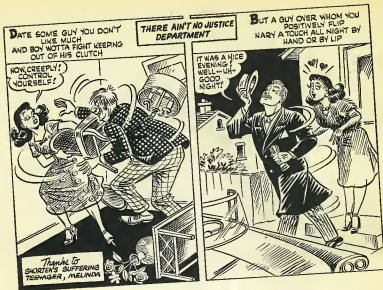






# There Ain't No Justice Department







**AROUND THE HOUSE**  
MOMMA'S ALLERGIC  
TO LOUD SOUNDS! OR  
EVEN SOFT ONES...

WEETENA! TURN OFF THAT HORRIBLE  
ROCK AND ROLL MUSIC! IT'S GIVING  
ME A HEADACHE! THE NOISE  
THAT RECORD PLAYER  
MAKES I'D LIKE TO  
THROW IT OUT!



**B**UT WHEN SHE'S  
NIGHTCLUBBING  
SHE'S NOT HAPPY  
UNLESS PAPA GETS  
HER WITHIN EAR-  
SPPLITTING DISTANCE  
TO THE BAND.

*Thanks to*  
SUSAN BURKE,  
654 S. 28 ST.,  
MILWAUKEE 15,  
WIS.

GASTRIC! GIVE THE HEAD-  
WATER A NICE TIP! I'D LIKE HIM  
TO PUT US AT THIS TABLE!



**S**HE REALLY DON'T NEED ANYTHING! BUT  
AS LONG AS SHE WAS PASSING THE STORE



OH, LET'S GO  
IN AND BROWSE!  
MAYBE I'LL BUY  
A HANDKERCHIEF.

WELL, OKAY!  
AS LONG AS  
YOU DON'T SHOP!  
WHAT WITH TAXES  
COMING UP,  
AND MY  
INSURANCE...

**SO-O-O!** NEED WE GO ON WITH THE  
GRUESOME DETAILS!



WASN'T I  
LUCKY TO GET  
SUCH A  
BARGAIN!

*Thanks to*  
LARRY CRISTIAN I,  
3430 GERRY BLVD.,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.



LOOK AT ANY ROLLS OR CADILLAC,  
IT HAPPENS WITHOUT FAIL...  
THE FOLKS WHO RIDE THOSE  
BIG, WIDE CARS  
ARE SKINNY AS A RAIL--



ON THE OTHER HAND,  
IN COMPACT CARS  
WHICH BARELY FIT  
THREE ACROSS  
MOST OF THE RIDERS  
SEEM TO BE  
BUILT LIKE BARNS,  
OF COWBOYS!



Charles D.  
SELIG TOWNSEND  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CALIF.

**I** IN HER MOVIE ROLES, SHE GETS CAUGHT  
IN A TYPHOON, CHASED BY SHARKS,  
FISHED OUT OF THE OCEAN... AND STILL  
MANAGES TO LOOK LIKE THIS.



**B**UT IN REAL LIFE, A COUPLE OF DROPS  
OF RAIN AND SHE LOOKS LIKE THIS!



Thanks To  
LYNN KANGAS  
12085 MANOR  
DETROIT, MICH.



## There Oughta To Be A Law (1969)

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